OffGrid Emergency Comms Refresher

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(GMRS Radios)

What we will cover today

Using a Beofeng UV-5R

Radio Tips

Where to find folks

Focus on NETS

NET Exercise

Legal operation

Listening is legal

UV-5R is certified for Amateur Radio License Holders

Not legal to use UV-5R on GMRS bands (or other non amateur bands)

Any radio can be used when Life or Property are at risk and no other options are available to communicate

GMRS licenses are purchased and apply to all family/household members

How to use a Beofeng

On/Off

Channel vs Frequency

A/B

PTT

UP / Down

Type in channel

Exit

Lock

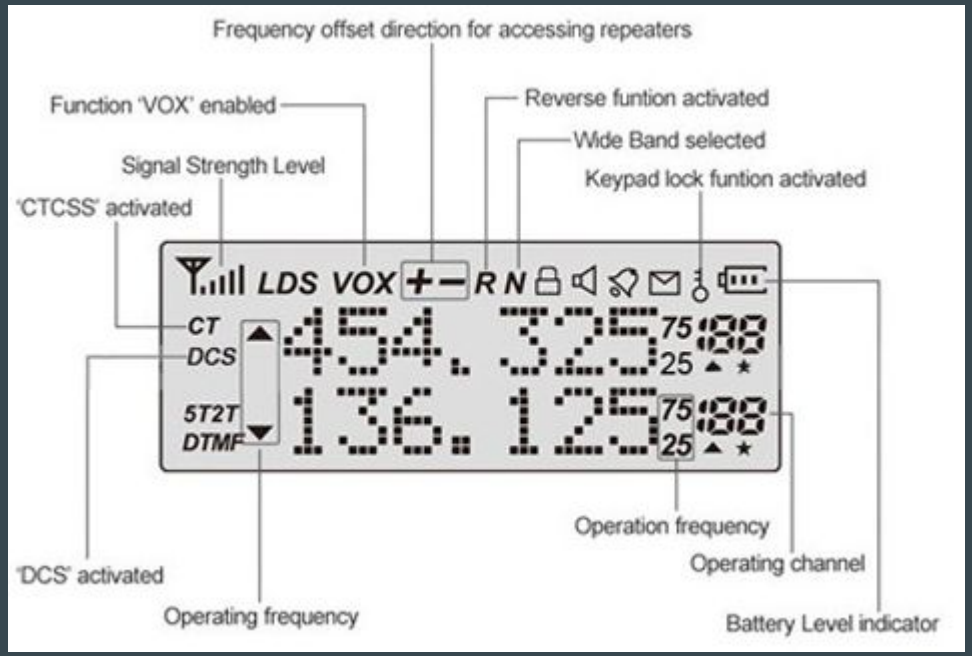
https://www.radiomasterlist.com/en/baofeng-uv-5r.html

UV-5R Display

VFO/Frequency

A/B

Lock



https://www.wijkamp.com/baofeng/uv-5r.html

Channels and when/how to use them

Listen on any

3	GMRS 3*	AmRRON Chan3 Calling Channel
24	GM 16/R	GMRS Repeater South Morgan County MCECN
27	GM 19/R	GMRS Repeater South Morgan County Repeater
34	NOAAWX4	NOAA Weather Broadcast * Frostburg WV
38	AMRNCH3	AmRRON Chan 3 Amateur Radio Calling Channel
41	MURS 3*	Multi Use Radio Service AmRRON Chan3
52	KK3L	Amateur Radio Repeater South Morgan Cnty
53	MCECN2m	Amateur Radio Repeater South Morgan Cnty MCECN.org
54	WA4TSC	Amateur Radio Repeater Bluemont VA

Range/Power/Antennas

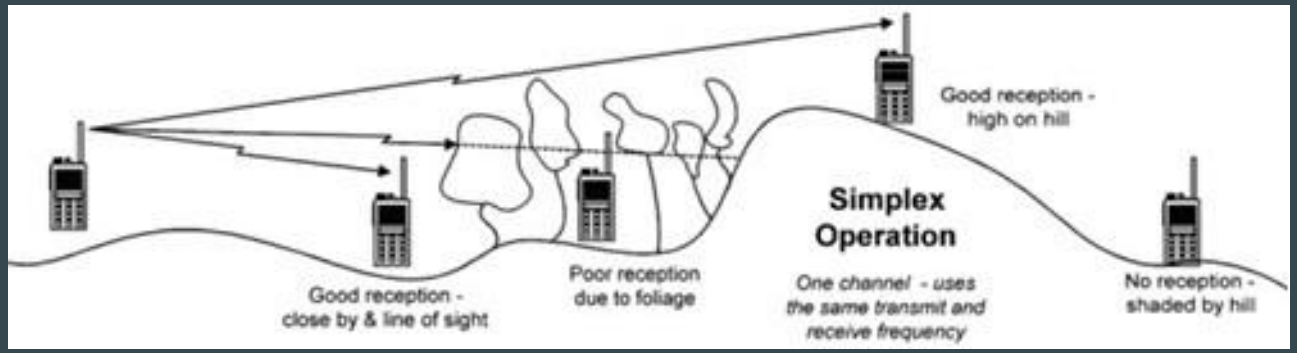
Higher is better

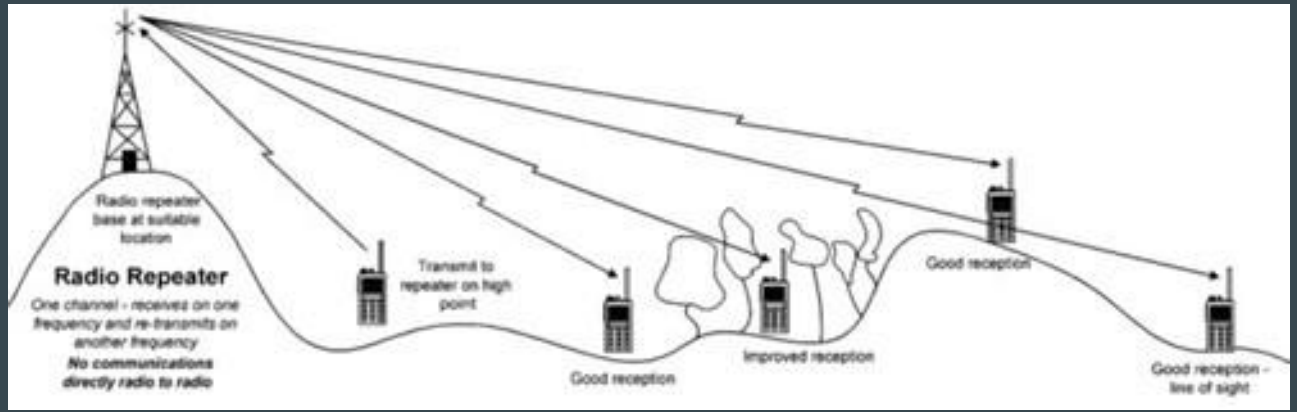
Outside is better

a car is a faraday cage

15 Miles line of sight

Use a repeater





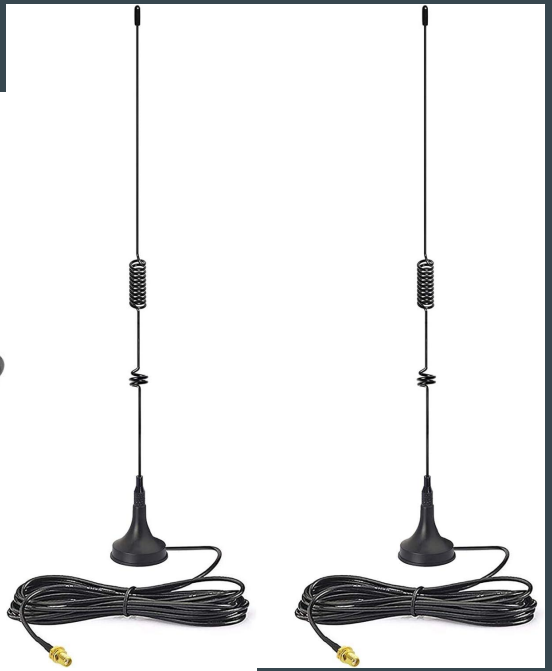
https://www.walkie-talkie-hire.co.uk/info/what-is-a-repeater

Upgrade Time!

Better antennas (longer)

https://signalstuff.com/products

Mag mount car antenna



BAOFENGTECH

Radioddity

Who is listening and when

MCECN NET every Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

- KK3L (52) repeater till we move to MCECN2m (53)

WA4TSC (54)

- Northern VA Traffic Net - Daily 7:30
- SkyWarn as needed (weather events)

GM 16/R (24) MCECN GMRS Repeater on Cacapon Mtn.

- No nets scheduled yet - **you should fix this!**

Demonstrations

Bad behavior on the radio

- PTT Cutoff
- PTT Stuck
- VOX

Bad Reception

- In a car
- Under a metal roof/building
- Get to a clear location

Identification

- Use your name (+ Call Sign if on Amateur Radio)
- every 10 min and at end of conversation

Nets - (not for fish)

Radios are Half Duplex

Control the Chaos

Control what information is shared

Respectful way to efficiently share information

Practice Nets

Emergency/Event Nets

NET CONTROL is King

Typical Net Format - live demo

Net Control Station: Set time/frequency/format

Opening: Purpose - Format - Special Directions

Check-ins: Name - Call Sign - indicate traffic (a message)

Traffic Handling: (Optional)

Round Table/Comments:

Late Check-ins: (Bob is always late)

Closing: Next scheduled net

Group Activity 1 - Neighborhood Storm Check - 10 min

- Groups of ~10
- No radios - use a talking stick
- Each Group - different location but close enough to hear your group
- Goal - Net Control gathers name, power & safety status from each member

Group Activity 2 - Net Exercise 15 - 20 min

- Groups of 10
- Radio Only - assign a GMRS channel
- Each Group Member - Scatter around property, just far enough to not hear
- Assigned Net Control - direct a net
- Goal - Gather a supply list request

It’s our Community - our Responsibility

Volunteer

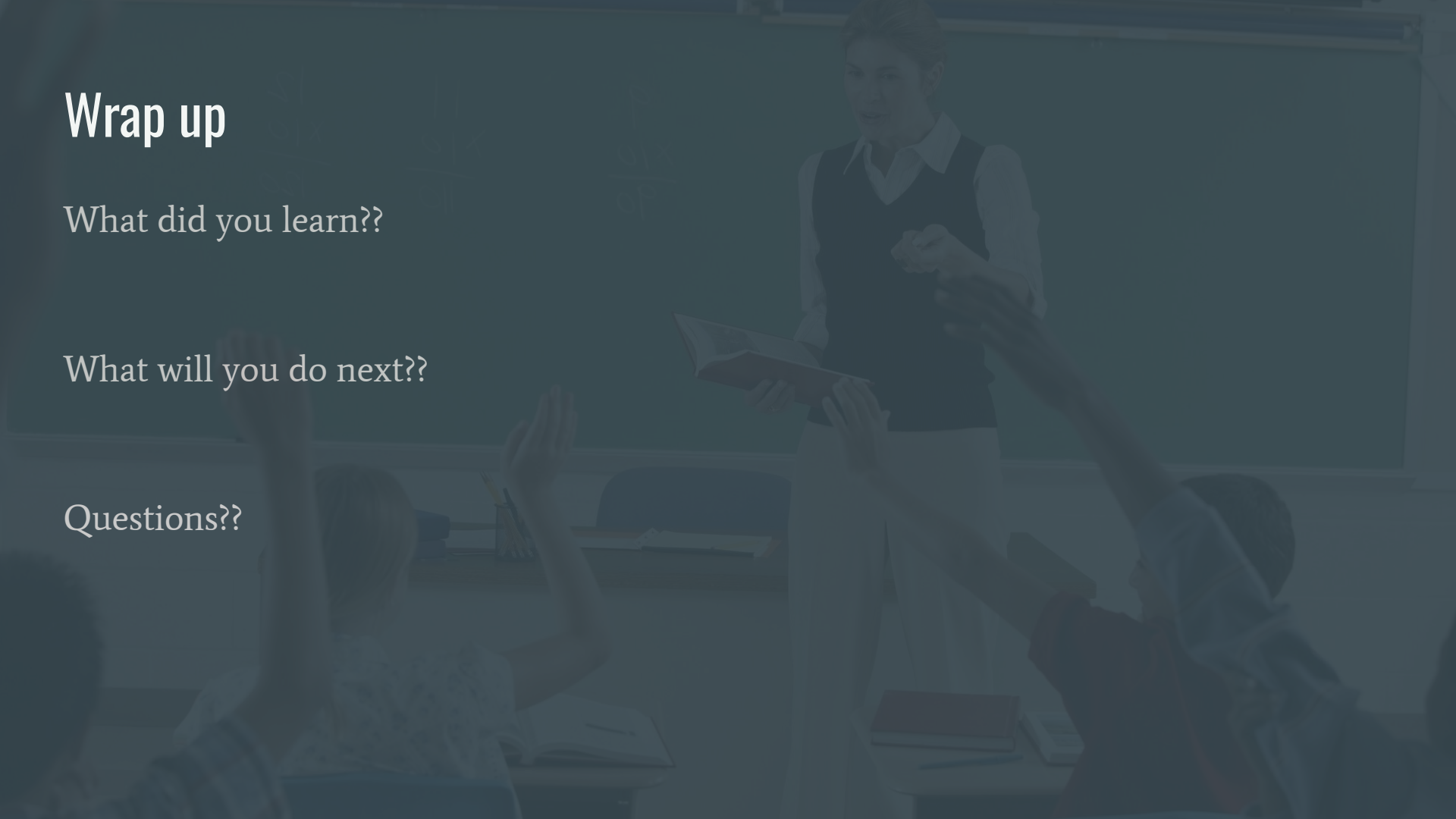
- Your Tallent & Time
  - Diesel Mechanic, Builder, Electrical, roads & building maintenance
  - Engineering, Electrical, Radio, Computer
  - Logistics, event, emergency communications
- Your Equipment
  - Furniture, household goods, tools, computers, office equipment, lighting
- Your Voice - Promote us
  - Neighbors, social media, community leaders
- Your Finances
  - Liquid assets fill many needs - costs associated with events, services, utility bills, new equipment

Wrap up

What did you learn??

What will you do next??

Questions??



COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

PREPARE
Morgan County
WV

Turn waste into something wonderful!

You will learn how to:

- ✓ enrich your soil
- ✓ reduce waste
- ✓ improve soil structure

April 15th 10am - 12 pm

or

April 18th 6pm - 8pm

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

BUILD YOUR OWN COMPOSTER FROM A 5 GALLON BUCKET!

Details and registration at: preparemorgancounty.com

We Need Your Feedback

MCECN.org
PREPAREMORGANCOUNTY.com

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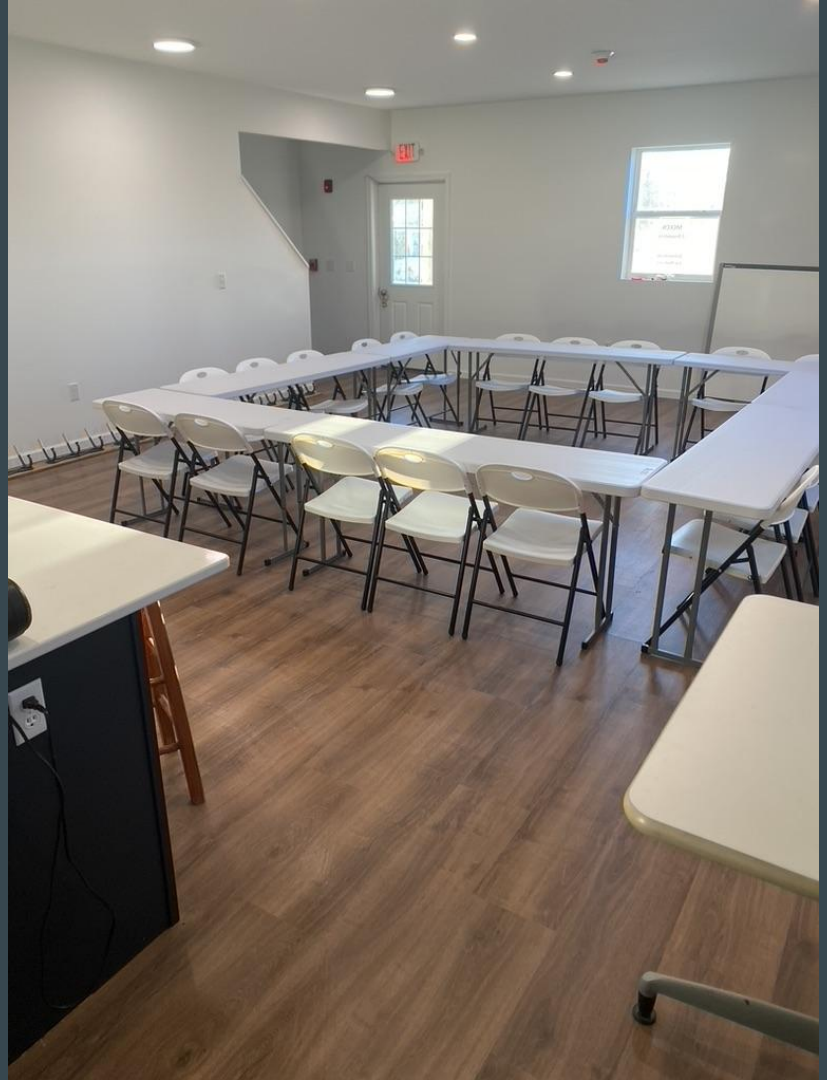
(March 2026)

Cabinetry
LG Microwave Oven


EXIT